

Florence Weiss has been a resident of Concord since 1982. She was first hired by the City of Concord as Downtown Coordinator on June 24, 2002 and eventually became the Downtown Program Manager. Throughout Florence's 17-year career with the City, she has promoted and fostered an increased sense of community in the downtown area, including Todos Santos Plaza.

Florence focused much of her leadership on expanding community events. She has overseen countless events including the popular Music and Market series, which has grown in attendance from an average of 500 attendees to an average of 4,500 attendees. In an effort to keep the music series running in downtown Concord, Florence established the Save our Series program to help fund the event and she has consistently exceeded fundraising goals. She has also overseen the creation of new events such as viewing parties for the Golden State Warriors championship games and Concordstock, an event held in 2008 that celebrated 20 years of concerts in Todos Santos Plaza.

In conjunction with Florence's commitment to increasing attendance at downtown and community events, she has advocated for a healthier and cleaner Concord, most notably by helping to successfully implement a smoking ban in the Downtown District. Even in times of tight budgets, Florence has used her creative problem solving and fostered community engagement and enthusiasm.

Florence Weiss has been a champion for the City of Concord and its residents. We wish her great luck and joy in retirement.

HONORING MELVIN DALE-DEARBORN
FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL PERRY

HON. RASHIDA TLAI

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Firefighter Michael Perry for his twenty-three years of service to the Melvindale-Dearborn Consolidated Fire Department, on the occasion of his retirement.

For more than two decades, Firefighter Michael Perry has persevered in his dedication to public safety and the well-being of his neighbors. In 1996, Perry joined the City of Melvindale's Fire Department as a fire fighter. Shortly after, he was promoted to Firefighter II, and was ultimately promoted to Firefighter III. With an unimpeachable record of service, Michael Perry has been acknowledged for his flawless attendance record, exceptional driving record, and has earned countless honors by his peers, including a Certificate of Special Recognition. His commitment and outstanding service have been recognized by Department Commendation, Meritorious Company Commendation, Fire Chief Company Citation, and Unit Commendation awards.

Please join me in recognizing Firefighter Michael Perry for his years of public service as we wish him well on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL CARRIGAN
FOR YEARS OF DEDICATION AND
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF IL-
LINOIS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Michael Carrigan for a lifetime of vigorous and effective advocacy protecting the rights of workers in my home state of Illinois and working men and women across the United States.

Michael Carrigan's life is a quintessentially American story of talent, determination and deeply felt ambition to build a better world. He began his career as a journeyman wireman and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Displaying an early talent for organizing, Michael quickly rose through the ranks to become business manager and financial secretary for IBEW Local 146, and then assumed greater positions of responsibility in the Illinois AFL-CIO as Secretary-Treasurer and President. Michael also held a variety of positions of national leadership in organized labor, somehow found time to serve nearly four terms on the Decatur City Council, and briefly as the Mayor of Decatur.

During his tenure as president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Michael played a key role organizing support to increase the Illinois minimum wage to \$15 an hour, and to enact a \$45 billion dollar capital improvements bill that will fund the repair of aging infrastructure in our state. He continues to work tirelessly to build support for a progressive state income tax that asks our wealthiest citizens to shoulder their fair share of the cost of government, while providing revenue streams sufficient to balance our budget and fund education, important social services, and our state's pension obligations to its workers.

In 2018, Michael was the first Illinois resident to receive the World Peace Prize "Roving Ambassador for Peace" award. In accepting this honor, Michael observed that all peaceful societies are built upon foundations of economic justice: "The Labor Movement and its allies build peace through economic and social justice causes . . . Our fight for justice knows no borders, and the enemies of peace are the enemies of [social and economic] justice."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 900,000 members of the Illinois AFL-CIO and the millions of hard-working men and women in our country who owe so much to Michael Carrigan, I offer my gratitude for his years of dedicated and selfless service to our country. Although Michael may be retiring from the Illinois AFL-CIO, I know he will not retire from his commitment to public service, and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTH CENTRAL
TEXAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Careity Foundation of

North Central Texas. They have been providing direct patient services through the "Careity Celebrity Cutting" for 25 years in Tarrant, Parker, Palo Pinto, Hood, and Johnson Counties in Texas.

Careity provides early detection services to people who may otherwise go without and clinical services for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. Last year, Careity provided over 7600 patient services and has a strong record of responding quickly to patient's needs and caring about the people in the community who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Careity prides itself in a high-profile low-cost event, the "Careity Celebrity Cutting". The uniqueness of the event stands out above other charity events in that the entire venue is donated by the National Cutting Horse Association. All celebrities are volunteers, and Careity has no development or fundraising staff.

Given the competition for supporters that the non-profit industry has faced in the last several years, we can all appreciate this enormous accomplishment which speaks to the strong leadership that has steered the Foundation over the course of its impressive history. Careity exists to provide direct care that saves lives, gives hope, eases pain, and allows cancer patients and families to focus on healing.

I congratulate Careity on this significant milestone.

HONORING THE INNOVATIVE WORK
OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS
IN ILLINOIS'S 10TH DISTRICT

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the creative accomplishments of our local municipalities who have gone above and beyond to serve our communities. Innovation is alive and well in the cities, towns and villages of Illinois's Tenth Congressional District.

Some of these local achievements were recently recognized by the Lake County Municipal League highlighting the commitment, vision and ingenuity of our civic leaders.

The Village of Mundelein, Illinois won top honors for the "Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge", established by Mayor Steve Lentz. The program encourages Mundelein students' interest in fields such as mathematics and engineering, while promoting access to higher education. More than 1,000 students have participated, and 31 businesses have donated more than \$80,000 to the program. Since the Mayor's Cup STEM Challenge was established in 2014, the program has grown significantly and serves as a model for how municipal governments can partner with local schools, students, and businesses for the greater good.

The Village of Bannockburn was also honored for the creation of the Last Mile shuttle pilot program, which sought to solve the Village's transportation problem. The program's goal was to connect Bannockburn Lakes Office Complex with four Metra stations nearby and allow commuters a subsidized Lyft ride to